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National Phase of PCT/EP2004/052549

Attorney Docket: 27342U

Appl. No.: Not Yet Assigned

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Claims 1-15 (canceled)

- 16) (new) A king pile for retaining walls comprising a web and two parallel flanges carried by the web, said flanges being fitted with connection means along their longitudinal edges, wherein said flanges are reinforced, on the side opposite the web over the major part of their width, by an extra material thickness, said extra material thickness starting only at a certain distance from the longitudinal edges of said flange, so that said flange has flange ends of smaller thickness carrying said connection means.
- 17) (new) King pile according to claim 16, wherein said connection means comprises an enlargement of triangular cross section, which is carried by one of said flange ends of smaller thickness.
- 18) (new) King pile according to claim 17, wherein the maximum thickness of said extra material thickness is greater than the height of said enlargement.
- 19) (new) King pile according to claim 16, wherein at least one of said flange ends of smaller thickness has a corrugated longitudinal profile to form said connection means.
- 20) (new) King pile according to claim 16, wherein said connection means comprises an interlock section for a sheet pile, which is welded end to end on a lateral face of one of said flange ends of smaller thickness.
- 21) (new) King pile according to claim 16, wherein said connection means comprises an interlock section for a sheet pile, which is carried by a U-shaped section threaded onto one of said flange ends of smaller thickness, said U-shaped section being fixed to said flange end by two corner welds.
- 22) (new) King pile according to claim 16, wherein said extra material thickness on a flange is divided in two by a longitudinal groove running above the web.
- 23) (new) King pile according to claim 16, wherein said extra material thickness is symmetrical about the mid-plane of said web.

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- 24) (new) King pile according to claim 16, wherein the ratio of the thickness of said flange ends to the thickness of said web is between 1.0 and 1.7.
- 25) (new) King pile according to claim 16, wherein the ratio of the maximum thickness of said flange at said extra material thickness to the thickness of said flange ends is between 1.5 and 4.0.
- 26) (new) King pile according to claim 16, wherein the thickness of said flange ends is between 10 mm and 25 mm.
- 27) (new) King pile according to claim 16, wherein the maximum thickness of the flange at said extra material thickness is between 40 mm and 60 mm.
- 28) (new) King pile according to claim 16, wherein the ratio of the web depth to the flange width is at least equal to 2.
- 29) (new) Retaining wall, comprising:  
at least two king piles, each of said king piles comprising a web and two parallel flanges carried by the web, said flanges being fitted with connection means along their longitudinal edges, wherein said flanges are reinforced, on the side opposite the web over the major part of their width, by an extra material thickness, which starts only at a certain distance from the longitudinal edges of the flange, allowing the flange ends, carrying said connection means, to remain of smaller thickness;  
wherein said at least two king piles are connected at their flanges by interlock sections, and said extra material thicknesses form bearing surfaces, which define a bearing plane located in front of said interlock sections.
- 30) (new) Retaining wall according to claim 29, comprising at least one wale bearing on said bearing surfaces formed by said extra material thicknesses in front of said interlock sections.